Revival of Mecon

2110 SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fully explored the potentials and means of revival of MECON;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees of MECON who availed VRS during the last three years, category and level-wise;

(d) whether major problems in viability of MECON arose due to accumulation of huge un-recovered outstanding payments from its clients over the past years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the status of recovery of outstanding debtors payments, as on date; and

(f) the programme under implementation, if any, for revival of MECON within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) MECON Limited has been incurring losses since 1998-99 due to general slump in the steel industry which has been the core business of the company. The company has initiated several measures like roll back of retirement age of employees from 60 years to 58 years, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), realisation of old dues, diversification in non-steel sector etc. for improving its financial condition.

(c) The details of employees opted VRS during the last three years category-wise and level-wise are as under :

Category wise :

A	B	C	D	Total
193	18	72	4	287

Level-wise :

DGM	AGM	Other Executive (Tech)		Executive (Non-Tech.)	Non-Executive	Total
		Engineer	Non-Engg.			
56	28	10	43	56	94	287

(d) and (e) To some extent accumulation of outstanding payments from clients has affected the financial health of the company resulting from higher overdraft from banks to meet the working capital requirements. The total outstanding amount as on 31-10-2001 is Rs. 120 crores out of which Rs. 75.4 crores is outstanding for more than one year.

(f) No such proposal for revival of MECON is under consideration of the Government.

US Taxes on Indian Steel Imports

†2111. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has imposed heavy taxes to discourage import of Indian steel in that country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this step of the US Government would make export of steel from India to America impossible; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) The US Government in the recent past has imposed anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties against import of steel from various countries including India. The US DOC has initiated anti dumping and anti subsidy proceedings against the import of a number of steel and related products from India viz., CTL Carbon Steel Plates, HR Steel Flat Products and CR Steel Products. It has imposed anti-dumping duty of 72.49% and countervailing duty of 12.82% on CTL carbon plates and anti dumping duty between 29.35% to 43.07% and countervailing duty between 8.32% to 31.94% on HR steel flat products.

(c) Yes,Sir.

(d) The Government has been supporting the cause of Indian exporters. On US Department of Commerce imposing anti-dumping duty of 72.49% on cut-to-length carbon steel plate imports from India, the Indian Government approached the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO against the imposition of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.